# Plan for Coordinating Science

**South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Meeting**

May 4 - 5, 2004

# Plan for Coordinating Science

- **Overview**
- **Scope**
- **Approach for Coordinating Science**
- **Tracking Progress and Updating Periodically**

# Overview

- **Develop and implement a process for coordinating science by:**
  - Defining and prioritizing, at the programmatic level, science needs critical to ensure restoration success, as defined by Task Force goals and objectives
  - Identifying gaps in the list of critical needs in research, modeling, monitoring and connections to management
  - Implementing science coordination actions
  - Tracking progress and updating the Plan periodically

# Overview

- **Two phase process**
  - Initial plan to be developed by September 2004 in coordination with the Biennial Report
    - **Processes developed and applied to a subset of the ecosystem stressors and attributes**
    - **Subset of science needs and gaps identified**
    - **Actions described to address subset of science needs and gaps**
  - Full plan complete by September 2005
    - **Remainder of:**
      - ✓**Ecosystem stressors and attributes evaluated**
      - ✓**Needs, gaps and actions identified**

# Overview

| Key Milestones | |
|---|---|
| Task Force provide comments on outline | May 4 |
| SCG address comments and complete needs identification | June 1 |
| SCG develop interim draft without gap identification | June 15 |
| SCG develop interim draft with gap identification | July 15 |
| SCG provide interim draft for Task Force review | July 26 |
| Task Force provide comments (electronically) | Aug 13 |
| SCG provide draft final Plan to Task Force for review | Aug 31 |
| Task Force approve Plan | Sep 16 |
| OED deliver Plan to Congress | Sep 30 |

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# Scope

- **South Florida ecosystem restoration coverage**
  - All restoration (CERP and non-CERP) activities and regions (uplands, coastal zone, wetlands, and estuaries)
- **Programmatic-level science**
  - Science necessary to ensure restoration success, defined by Task Force goals and objectives
- **Research, modeling, monitoring and connections to management**

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# Approach for Coordinating Science

- **Defining and prioritizing, at the programmatic level, science needs critical to ensure restoration success as defined by Task Force goals and objectives**
  - Develop an approach that uses conceptual models to identify critical needs for restoration success
    - **Develop criteria to identify and rank critical needs**
    - **Conduct workshops with conceptual model developers to identify needs**
    - **Apply approach in two workshops for 2004 Plan**
      - ✓**Total System Model**
      - ✓**Florida Bay Model**
    - **Remaining conceptual models to be addressed for 2005 Plan**

# Approach for Coordinating Science

- **Identifying gaps in the list of critical needs in research, modeling, monitoring and connections to management**
  - Review existing programs to identify science activities that address the critical needs
    - **First, review RECOVER programs**
    - **Second, review other partnership or agency/tribal programs**

# Approach for Coordinating Science

- **Identifying gaps in the list of critical needs in research, modeling, monitoring and connections to management (cont.)**
  - Identify gaps by evaluating sufficiency of:
    - **Knowledge: Science and technical gaps**
      - ✓**Technical depth**
      - ✓**Spatial extent**
      - ✓**Effectiveness of communication**
      - ✓**Information synthesis**
    - **Connections to management**
      - ✓**Effectiveness of communication**
      - ✓**Information synthesis**
      - ✓**Timeliness**

# Approach for Coordinating Science

- **Implementing science coordination actions**
  - SCG will draft options to address gaps for Task Force review, approval and implementation. Examples may include:
    - **Partnership agreements**
    - **Improved communication mechanisms**
    - **Information synthesis and sharing**
    - **Conferences and workshops**
  - Quality assurance
    - **Is the science sound?**
    - **Is the relevant science being performed?**
    - **Is the science being communicated in a useful form for managers?**

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# Tracking Progress and Updating Periodically

- **Develop processes for tracking science coordination success**
  - Are the science gaps being addressed?
  - Is the best available scientific information guiding restoration?
- **Describe process for periodically updating the Plan for Coordinating Science**